15th March 1955]

MR. SPEAKER :—" Questions Nos. 1355 and 1356 may be taken up together."

Lignite Mines, Neyveli.

* 1355 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether an Eight-man Committee has been appointed for Neyveli Lignite Mines; and

(*b*) if so, who the members are and the functions of the Committee?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) A statement [a] is placed on the table of the House."

* 1356 *Q.*—SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any conference of representatives of the Union Government and the State Government was held recently regarding Neyveli Lignite Project;

(*b*) if so, the scheme proposed by this Conference;

(*c*) whether the schemes have been approved by this Government; and

(*d*) when they will be given effect to?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) *to* (*d*) No scheme for the exploitation and utilization of lignite was decided upon at that conference. It was decided that further drilling and pumping tests should be carried out and that an integrated scheme drawn up after the results of the tests are available. Arrangements are being made for the conduct of the tests."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" May I know whether Sri Ghosh is one among the technical assistants appointed by this Committee and whether he continues in his appointment? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Technical assistance has been sought and is being given by a British firm, namely Powell Duffryn Technical Services. Mr. Ghosh does not belong to that firm."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" As this is an important question which has been figuring very often in this House, will the Government be pleased to issue a white paper on this subject containing all the relevant information? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" After the investigations are completed and the Project report is prepared by the co-ordinating committee, the Government may consider the issuing of a white paper."

---

[a] Printed as Appendix on page 789 infra.

[15th March 1955

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY :—" I find from the statement laid on the table of the House that out of the eight members in the committee, five of them had been appointed by the Government of India to represent their interests and there are only three members to represent the Government of Madras. May I know whether these appointments were made in consultation with our Government or they were made *suo motu?* "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" This Committee was constituted after full consultation with this Government and, at the same time, I may tell the hon. Member that this Government and the Central Government are not two independent units. Further, I may add that the Central Government have taken up the entire financial responsibility for the investigation of this project from 1st of January last."

Service conditions of workers in Neyveli Lignite Project.

9-20 p.m. * 1357 *Q.*—SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any representation was received by the Government in December 1954 from the Trade Union of the workers employed in the Neyveli Lignite Project regarding wages and service conditions ; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) No, Sir.

" (*b*) Does not arise."

Merger of the Prohibition department with the Police department.

* 1358 *Q.*—SRI M. DHARMALINGAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of officers with their grade of the Prohibition Department, absorbed in the Police Department consequent on the merger of the Prohibition Department with the Police Department ;

(*b*) the number of persons thrown out of the employment owing to the merger ; and

(*c*) the number of persons, if any, reverted to their parent department?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (*a*) The Prohibition Department has not been merged with the Police Department but the work of enforcement of Prohibition has been transferred to the Police Department throughout the State with effect from 3rd January 1955. The officers and the staff previously employed in the Excise Prohibition Department both permanent and temporary have been divided between the Board of Revenue (Excise) for residuary work and the Police Department for enforcement work in